

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I am pleased to support this important and timely amendment.

This amendment will go far to ease the financial burden that is placed on a service member and his or her loved ones as a result of traumatic injury. Between \$25,000 and \$100,000 will be paid to service members who suffer such injuries based on severity of injury.

Service members and their families face heavy financial burdens while hospitalized, and prior to being medically discharged from the military. This effort will help lessen the burden that exists on service members and their families before VA benefits kick in.

Importantly, to qualify for this necessary benefit, our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines do not have to do any additional paperwork. They are automatically enrolled in this program by virtue of being a participant in the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Program.

The insurance premium will cost the service member approximately \$1 a month and will be determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

This insurance policy is meant to supplement, and not take the place of, existing DoD and VA benefits. This amendment is intended to fill a gap: assistance to service members and their families during recovery from a traumatic injury. In no way should anyone view this as a precedence for shifting costs to a service member.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate? If not, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 564), as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. CRAIG. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. I thank the Senator from Massachusetts for his consideration, most importantly the chairman of the full Appropriations Committee for his cooperation, the chairman of the Armed Services Committee for his understanding and work with his staff. As chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, this was truly a team effort. Working with my colleague from Ohio, Senator DEWINE, we have accomplished something for America's veterans, especially those very traumatically injured, that I think is critical and necessary.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I will speak briefly. If this time is taken from the time scheduled for a vote at 3:45, I ask unanimous consent whatever time I use extend the vote that amount of time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE COURAGE OF SENATOR INOUE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we all have the good fortune of serving in this body with some outstanding men and women, but I don't think it is an exaggeration to say DAN INOUE is a step above us all. He is a man for whom I have the greatest admiration, for many different reasons.

Sixty years ago today, on April 21, 1945, DAN INOUE paid an incredible price protecting the freedom of our country and the people of the world. Senator DANIEL K. INOUE showed during World War II what kind of a man he is.

He was born to Japanese immigrant parents in Honolulu. He witnessed the bombing of Pearl Harbor when he was 17 years old. But he did not stand by. He rushed in, provided aid to American troops. This was the beginning of his service to our country.

I will read now from his Medal of Honor citation which was received for actions this day 60 years ago, when Senator INOUE and his men were in Italy, trying to capture a key mountain ridge.

The citation reads:

With complete disregard for his personal safety, Second Lieutenant Inouye crawled up the treacherous slope to within five yards of the nearest machine gun and hurled two grenades, destroying the emplacement. Before the enemy could retaliate, he stood up and neutralized a second machine gun nest. Although wounded by a sniper's bullet, he continued to engage other hostile positions at close range until an exploding grenade shattered his right arm. Despite the intense pain, he refused evacuation and continued to direct his platoon until enemy resistance was broken and his men were again deployed in defensive positions.

Senator INOUE lost his arm and received other grievous wounds that day defending our freedom. It tells us something about this man, his courage and his heroism.

We serve with him every day. He is quiet, unassuming, but he is a real hero. He refused to let anything hold him back, in spite of his serious injuries, spending years in the hospital. Following that war, he went to the University of Hawaii, George Washington School of Law. He was elected to the House of Representatives, and now is the third most senior Member of the Senate. Throughout his life and his service, DAN INOUE has proven himself a man of courage.

I am, with all Members in this Senate, Democrats and Republicans, proud to call him a friend and a colleague. He gave so much to our country so long ago but to this day he keeps on giving. We could all learn a lesson from this great American.

Mr. WARNER. I wish to commend the distinguished Senator for those remarks. I humbly ask the privilege of being associated with the remarks he made.

Senator INOUE has been one of the most extraordinary leaders I have had the privilege to serve with in my career

in the Senate. I thank him and I thank the Senator from Nevada.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. I don't know how the time is allocated, but I will take 2 or 3 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes 39 seconds.

AMENDMENT NO. 520

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, from April of this year, 2005, the GAO report. There are two primary causes for the shortages of up-armored vehicles and add-on armor kits: First, a decision was made to pace production rather than use the maximum available capacity; two, funding allocations did not keep up with rapidly increasing requirements.

Army officials have not identified any long-term effort to improve the availability of up-armored Humvees or add-on armor kits.

The Department of the Army itself says now we are currently producing the 550, they will continue through June 2005, at which the production rates decline. To sustain production at the maximum capacity, the Army would need funding at 213. That is exactly what ours does.

If we did not include that, we see the dramatic production in the capacity and in the development of that.

Why are we doing that? Nine times the Army appeared before the Armed Services Committee; nine times they underestimated the needs.

A third of the 35 of the young men from my State of Massachusetts have lost their lives because of the lack of up-armor.

All we are asking, take it to the conference, 230. The House of Representatives saw that. Why doesn't the Senate of the United States? I hope we would have support for that amendment and let them work it out in the conference. Let's make sure we are going to do what needs to be done. We have seen the mistakes of the past. Let's not make another one today.

Mr. COCHRAN. How much time remains under the order?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi has 2½ minutes. That is all the time that is available.

Mr. COCHRAN. I reserve the remainder of my time and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

AMENDMENT NO. 487

NOMINATION OF JOHN D. NEGROPONTE TO BE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session and proceed to a vote on the nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of John D. Negroponte, of New York, to be Director of National Intelligence.

Mr. COCHRAN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of John D. Negroponte, of New York, to be Director of National Intelligence? The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 107 Ex.]

YEAS—98

Akaka	Dodd	Martinez
Alexander	Dole	McCain
Allard	Domenici	McConnell
Allen	Dorgan	Mikulski
Baucus	Durbin	Murkowski
Bayh	Ensign	Murray
Bennett	Enzi	Nelson (FL)
Biden	Feingold	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Feinstein	Obama
Bond	Frist	Pryor
Boxer	Graham	Reed
Brownback	Grassley	Reid
Bunning	Gregg	Roberts
Burns	Hagel	Rockefeller
Burr	Hatch	Salazar
Byrd	Hutchison	Santorum
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sarbanes
Carper	Inouye	Schumer
Chafee	Isakson	Sessions
Chambliss	Jeffords	Shelby
Clinton	Johnson	Smith
Coburn	Kennedy	Snowe
Cochran	Kerry	Specter
Coleman	Kohl	Stabenow
Collins	Kyl	Stevens
Conrad	Landrieu	Sununu
Cornyn	Lautenberg	Talent
Corzine	Leahy	Thomas
Craig	Levin	Thune
Crapo	Lieberman	Vitter
Dayton	Lincoln	Voinovich
DeMint	Lott	Warner
DeWine	Lugar	

NAYS—2

Harkin Wyden

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the President shall be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I yield back my time on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 487) was agreed to.

Mr. COCHRAN. I move to reconsider the vote and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, in the decade before 9/11, al Qaeda studied how to exploit gaps and weaknesses in the borders of the United States.

A few months ago, intelligence officials confirmed that the terrorist Zarqawi plans to infiltrate America through our borders. He plans to attack targets such as movie theaters, restaurants, and schools.

A year-long investigation recently concluded with authorities arresting 18 people who planned to smuggle grenade launchers, shoulder-fired missiles, and other Russian military weapons into our country.

Let's face it—the dual threat of illegal border crossing by people who wish to kill us and the weapons they need to do it is very real.

We are not dealing with rational people. We are not dealing with people who respect life or freedom. It would be irresponsible to sit idly by and not treat these threats seriously. We must continue to be diligent in our fight to defeat terror and protect our homeland.

Before 9/11, INS had only 9,800 border patrol agents. With the agency focused on immigration and narcotics, no major counterterrorism effort was underway.

More than 3 years after the devastating terrorist attacks, the men and women who serve on the border's front-line of defense are still overwhelmed. The Commissioner of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection has admitted they need more agents.

Our agents catch only about one-third of the estimated 3 million people who cross the border illegally each year. Three and half years ago it only took 19 to change the course of this country.

The 9/11 Commission addressed this very problem. They recommended banning terrorists from traveling to our country. This is exactly what my amendment attempts to accomplish.

We must commit resources to block terrorists who attempt to enter our country. Last year, I sponsored an amendment to the National Intelligence Reform Act that authorized the hiring of 10,000 new agents to patrol our borders over the next 5 years. And last month, the Senate approved a Budget which funded the hiring and training of 2,000 new border patrol agents next year.

Border security requires a serious commitment by Congress. There is no question that we need to hire new

agents. Our security depends on it. But it will take more than simply hiring agents. Congress needs to increase funding for training and equipment. I hope we will remember this during the regular appropriations process.

We cannot wait another year to improve our border security. This is an emergency. The amendment that I am offering will put new agents on the ground in the next few months.

My amendment begins to fulfill the commitment Congress made last year. It provides \$147 million to hire and train 400 new border patrol agents by October; 400 new agents is the maximum number of new agents that the Department of Homeland Security can train before the end of this fiscal year.

My amendment does not require any new spending. It is completely offset.

The 9/11 Commission found that many of the 19 hijackers could have been placed on watch lists. They were vulnerable to detection by border authorities. Without adequate staff and coordinated efforts, the terrorists were allowed to enter the United States. Once here they learned how to fly airplanes at American flight schools. They conducted surveillance to assess our weaknesses. And they attacked.

In order to prevent another terrorist attack on American soil, we must improve every aspect of our nation's security. Our security is truly only as strong as our weakest link.

For too long, the lack of funding for border agents has been a weak link. By funding additional agents, we protect both our southern and our, often neglected, northern border. This will make it harder for terrorists to enter the United States and attack us.

The world has changed dramatically since 9/11 when the terrorists used our open and trusting society against us. We can not allow a repeat of that tragedy. This amendment will help those who guard our frontiers by providing necessary tools to ensure the safety of our citizens.

AMENDMENT NO. 520

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided on Bayh amendment No. 520.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I had the opportunity to speak to the distinguished Senator from Alaska, Mr. STEVENS, and I know he was anxious to address the Senate with regard to his desire to obtain time to speak in opposition to the Bayh amendment. Might I ask, what is the parliamentary situation with regard to that? Hopefully, we can see the appearance of the Senator from Alaska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAFEE). Under the previous order, there are 2 minutes equally divided prior to the vote on the Bayh amendment.

Mr. WARNER. Will the Chair kindly repeat that?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 2 minutes evenly divided prior to the vote on the Bayh amendment.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, on behalf of the senior Senator from Alaska,